



school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 8, 2013

State Proposal May Bring More Funding

Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed a Local Control Funding Formula that could bring significant additional revenue to the Long Beach Unified School District while providing greater flexibility as to how those funds are used.

The governor's proposal, if approved by the state Legislature as part of California's budget approval process, would replace the current model of funding schools with a more streamlined formula and remove most spending restrictions. As a result, the majority of currently required "categorical activities" – including purchasing instructional materials, conducting professional development, and providing supplemental instruction – would instead be left to the discretion of individual school districts. LBUSD and other school districts have long sought such funding flexibility.

The new funding formula would begin in the 2013-14 school year, and would be implemented over seven years. The current projection is that LBUSD would receive about \$365 more per student in 2013-14 than in 2012-13, and about \$4,800 more per student over the next seven years. The seven-year increase amounts to a 77 percent boost in funding.

Long Beach would benefit more than some other districts under the new funding formula, which provides additional funds for school systems that have large populations of students living in poverty, and/or large numbers of students whose primary language is not English.

About 70 percent of LBUSD students qualify for free and reduced price meals because of their family income, and about 25 percent of students here are categorized as English Language Learners.

The governor's proposal also includes accountability measures requiring school districts to document how they plan to educate their students. View more details on the governor's proposal, and how it would affect Long Beach schools, at lbschools.net.

Federal Waiver Would Boost Local Control

The Long Beach Unified School District has joined eight other California school districts – who together serve more than a million students – in submitting an application for a waiver from federal No Child Left Behind rules.

The participating districts are part of the nonprofit California Office to Reform Education (CORE), and their collective waiver applications propose to replace the federal rules with a new, higher level of locally-driven accountability that will support efforts to prepare all students for college and careers.

The waiver would restore local control and funding flexibility that LBUSD and other districts have long sought from the federal government. If the waiver is granted, millions of dollars in federal Title I "set asides" – more than \$100 million in the CORE districts alone – will be returned to districts to be spent on more effective ways to improve student achievement.

The participating districts submitted their bundled waiver applications recently to the California State Board of Education for review. Following a state review period of about three weeks, the waiver applications are expected to

be considered by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Federal approval of this waiver will give us flexibility to improve our district's work to prepare all students for college and careers,"

said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "The current federal accountability bar has been too low and too narrowly focused for too long. We want a new accountability system that encourages a culture of collaboration and collective

responsibility for preparing all students for successful futures and holds us accountable for eliminating disparity."

The waiver proposal outlines a plan for participating districts to collect and share data far beyond what is necessary for federal accountability purposes. The additional data will be shared publicly and among participating districts so that they can work together.

To be eligible for the waiver, LBUSD and other participating districts commit to implementing the Common Core State Standards by the 2013-14 school year and transitioning to aligned tests by 2014-15. The common core standards are part of a national movement to

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L.A. Times Likes Federal Waiver

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State Senate Tours Cabrillo, Touts LBUSD

In what may be an unprecedented field trip, most of the California State Senate met at Cabrillo High School this week for a policy conference on education.

At least 31 of the 37 senators confirmed attendance at the meeting, which included presentations on the implementation of "linked learning" career pathways in high schools. Senators visited career academy classrooms at Cabrillo before heading to Long Beach City

College the following day to see related classes and programs.

"We know that one of the best ways to improve outcomes for our students and to close achievement gaps is to align rigorous academics to the world of work and careers. Long Beach Unified is on the cutting edge of linked learning in California, and consistently ranks among the top-performing school districts in the country," said Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg. "This fact-finding conference is a great opportunity for a firsthand look at what's working for our students and to ask questions and learn from those who are achieving success."

"In addition to studying a successful school system focused on meeting our workforce needs, this is a prime opportunity for senators to get out of the Capitol and experience a day in the life of California high school and community college students," said Sen. Bob Huff, Senate Republican Leader.

Senators also heard presentations and perspectives on the state's transition to common core standards, Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed Local Control Funding Formula, and the implementation of Senate Bill 1458, which changes the criteria of California's Academic Performance Index (API).

View photos of the Senate visit at lbschools.net.



NEW GARDEN – Cubberley K-8 School students help to build an American Heart Association teaching garden on campus. Prisk Elementary School also dedicated such a garden to help teach math, science and the value of healthful eating. *Story on next page.*

Gardens Take Root At Cubberley, Prisk

Cubberley K-8 School and Prisk Elementary School are the latest campuses to benefit from American Heart Association grants supporting heart-healthy gardens. Students from both schools recently built and planted gardens with the help of parents, Heart Association volunteers and school staff.

The students built several raised planters, filling them with soil and seedlings. The two schools were chosen to participate in the Heart Association's Teaching Gardens program, aimed at fighting childhood obesity through healthful eating.

Garden-themed lessons will be integrated into math and science curriculum, and the vegetables will be harvested and eaten by students and staff.

Garden dedication festivities included samplings of healthful foods, courtesy of Long Beach Unified School District Nutrition Services, jump rope sessions and other activities. Prisk's garden dedication day was combined with a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, complete with readings by The Cat in the Hat. At Cubberley, Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster stopped by to help dedicate the new garden.

Open Enrollment

Employees and retirees can make changes to medical plans during a special open enrollment period through March 15. Changes made during this period will become effective April 1. Employees also may change contributions to their Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), or enroll in an FSA for the first time.

Learn more under Health Insurance in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Retiring by Aug. 31 Impacts Benefits

Recently approved health benefit agreements include a maximum annual contribution by the Long Beach Unified School District toward employees' medical plans.

Reminder: eligible employees who retire from the school district *after* Aug. 31 of this year will receive the same district annual maximum contribution for medical plans. Eligible employees who retire *prior* to that date will not be subject to the school district's annual maximum contribution.

The maximum contribution is detailed in recent agreements with employee groups. Learn more under Bargaining Update at lbschools.net. Eligible non-represented employees are subject to the same maximum contribution provisions as represented workers.

In Memoriam

Sheila Kincherlow
intermediate Nutrition Services worker
Nutrition Services
Feb. 24, 2013

Dorris Leeper
former teacher
Feb. 27, 2013

The Heart Association is teaming with schools across the nation to create the teaching gardens. Signal Hill Elementary School dedicated such a garden last fall.

Learn more at heart.org. Search for Teaching Gardens.



PLANTING A SEED – Second graders at Prisk Elementary School learn about gardening and nutrition during a lesson tied to a newly built teaching garden.

ALBEM Breakfast

The annual Business Partnership Breakfast sponsored by the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers and Confidential Employees is scheduled for 7 a.m. Wednesday, March 13 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach.

The guest speaker is Damon Dunn, Tricor Co-founder and former NFL player.

ALBEM hosts each school principal and two of their business partners. Additional breakfasts are \$15. Choose from a bacon, eggs and potato breakfast, cinnamon swirled French toast, or oatmeal with maple syrup and brown sugar. RSVP to Gonzalo Moraga at gmoraga@lbschools.net or Karen Williams at tatta5585@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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L.A. Times Likes Federal Waiver

The Los Angeles Times this week endorsed the Long Beach Unified School District's efforts to partner with eight other California school systems in seeking a waiver from federal No Child Left Behind rules. An editorial in the nation's fourth largest newspaper also singled out Long Beach for its success.

"The districts' sincerity about improving academic achievement seems genuine," the editorial said of the eight-district consortium seeking the waiver. "One of them, Long Beach Unified, has gained a reputation for continual improvement without embracing extreme reforms or igniting the kind of divisive rancor that has touched many other districts. The U.S. Department of Education would be making a mistake if it rejected the attempts of these ambitious school districts to improve without the cumbersome and counterproductive requirements of No Child Left Behind. These districts might prove a helpful example to the rest of the state as well."

• Federal Waiver

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adopt rigorous standards for English and math.

Districts participating in the waiver would share a broad range of data to measure progress on college and career readiness. Using these data, schools will be identified as a "School of Distinction," a "Priority School," or a "Focus School." Coaching teams from Schools of Distinction will provide planning and support for improvement at priority and focus schools.

LBUSD will also use the shared data system to strengthen teaching and learning and will work with other CORE districts to identify elements that will be common among educator effectiveness and evaluation systems that each district will develop individually and implement by the 2014-15 school year. The waiver does not supersede local bargaining rights in any way, and LBUSD's current teacher evaluation system meets federal waiver requirements.

The CORE districts hope to secure federal approval by June.

View the full waiver at coredistricts.org. See "CORE ESEA Waiver" under "Our Work."

Summer Workers

Extended school year and summer employment is only available to current 10-month classified employees.

This year's application deadline is Friday, March 15.

Classified employees are responsible for providing their completed application to the Personnel Commission either in person or via U.S. or district mail. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

For questions, please call Mary Cates, Human Resources supervisor, at 997-8000, ext. 7285.

Public Schools Week

The theme for Public Schools Week is "Together we make a profound difference for public education." Events are March 18 to 29.